

# The HUB

The Official Newsletter of American Fork City



## AMERICAN FORK STATE OF THE CITY

by Mayor Brad Frost

I'm proud of all we've accomplished as a city in the past year. I'd like to mention some of those changes, focusing on how they have helped us grow stronger together as a community.

### WATER

As you may recall, last spring all eyes looked to the mountains as we cautiously watched the aftermath of a snowy winter. Luckily, God and the community were on our side. We experienced moderate temperatures which helped while we coordinated with numerous businesses and agencies to prevent and prepare for flooding.

Make no mistake. Without our city employees, American Fork would have seen flooding in our city. Our river was at maximum capacity, and it would have only taken one backup under a road to send the river over the banks and into neighborhoods. But that never happened. That's because employees cleared the entire river before the first drops of water passed through our town. They removed over

50 truckloads of trash and debris. Then, during the flood season, our city employees monitored the river 24/7, removing any blockages immediately. While most of us slept they were patrolling the river through the night. I once again thank our employees for their dedication to keeping us safe.

2024 is looking to be more comparable in weather to previous years. Last year's snowpack was 230% of normal where currently we are right at 100% of normal. But as good stewards who live in a desert, we should always be mindful of water conservation. To that end, we are wrapping up our PI meter installation project, which will have dramatic results in reducing water consumption. As a city, we were able to pay for this \$12 million dollar project almost exclusively with grants. This year we will conduct a rate study to determine new rates that are fair and manageable for our residents while still incentivizing water conservation. Residents and businesses will have a season to see how their water use impacts their bills before the new rates are implemented in 2025.

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### Office Numbers

Administration .....	801-763-3000
Public Works.....	801-763-3060
Library .....	801-763-3070
Fitness Center.....	801-763-3080
Senior Center.....	801-763-3090

### Non-Emergency

Police.....	801-763-3020
Fire & Rescue.....	801-763-3045

### On-Call / After-Hour

Water/Pressurized .....	801-404-1253
Sewer/Storm Drain .....	801-404-7167
Streets.....	801-404-1255
Garbage .....	801-924-8500
Street Lights .....	801-814-4311



**AMERICAN FORK**  
www.americanfork.gov



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### QUALITY OF LIFE

The city's community services provide opportunities for our residents to have the best quality of life possible. Our fitness center has been in operation at its current location for 30 years and saw over 300,000 patrons come through its doors in 2023.

I can't deliver one of these addresses without plugging our PARC program. Last year alone we invested \$1.7 million in American Fork and overall, we've invested \$9.5 million. In 2023 PARC tax funded playground upgrades at Miller and Greenwood Parks, another bathroom by the new dog park at Art Dye, A replacement bathroom at Greenwood and one to go with 6 new lit pickleball courts at Hindley Park. By way of arts, our PARC program funded new performance and theater classes taught by Regalo Theater, Fork Fest and a Live Nativity and Christmas Market from Harrington Center for the Arts, and numerous plays, performances, and concerts put on by youth and adults from Timpanogos Arts Foundation. These are just a few of the resources our residents were able to enjoy thanks to the PARC tax.

The high quality of life we enjoy is built in part on the efforts of our residents, businesses, and city services which all support one another.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

This year we delivered on our promise to give our residents a second fire station. American Fork Fire Department welcomed Station 52, a brand-new, state-of-the-art fire station that serves American Fork and Cedar Hills.

This facility could not have come at a better time. Our Fire department is still the busiest in Utah County. Last year they responded to 4,845 calls for service and conducted over 1,000 man-hours of training. Our fire department lives by their motto, Always Ready. They are community members as well, having participated in 190 educational events impacting over 15,000 individuals last year.

Our police are equally busy protecting American Fork and Cedar Hills and being good community partners. Last year our police department responded to 29,341 calls for service, which amounts to about 1,000 calls per officer per year. These calls require our officers



to be prepared for every scenario, which they do through continuous training. Our police department participated in over forty different training courses last year. Many may not realize that patrol is only a fraction of what our officers do. Other responsibilities include code enforcement, animal control, school resource officers, k-9 demonstrations, investigations, undercover work, special weapons and tactics, city events, and victim advocates. We also have an entire division dedicated to managing evidence and records. They do so much for us.

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

Improving and maintaining our infrastructure continues to be one of our top priorities as a city. Maybe you were even frustrated by all the construction going on in the city last year as we worked to repair and improve roads, water lines, and sidewalks. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but not for the improvements. We put more towards roads and infrastructure last year than ever before. This year we plan to make roads a top priority again, though we do expect inflation to affect how far our dollars will go.

200 South is a big project we have been working on for years and are looking forward to Phase 1 completion in 2024. Phase 1 will consist of a roundabout at the Frontage Road with improvements all the way to about 570 W. The remainder of 200 South will take place once the city resolves land acquisition negotiations with property owners along 200 South. We have the funding and are ready to proceed as soon as right of way is acquired.

### FIBER NETWORK

Last year we shared news about our partnership with Strata Networks to provide high speed internet to all residents in our community. American Fork will own the

network, Strata will maintain it, ISPs will provide service, and residents will benefit. Only residents who want the service will pay for it and ISPs are not obligated to join if they do not want to. It will also be subscription based, meaning those that use it will pay for it.

Our fiber network will offer faster speed, greater reliability, and more long-term internet options, increasing residents' ability to choose the best options for them and their families.

We are currently working with Strata to design the network and pricing but residents can pre-register now by going to [americanfork.fibertomycity.com](http://americanfork.fibertomycity.com). Construction begins this year, and we will continue to share updates as they come.

### GROWTH

You won't be surprised to hear that we are still a growing city. Last year we had over 873 permits issued for commercial and residential construction. A more impressive number is that we conducted 26,102 inspections last year, which equates to about 5,252 inspections per inspector. I hope that tells you how seriously we take development in our city. We have not seen a significant decrease in building permits in spite of increased mortgage rates and a looming recession.

This growth has provided a lot of different housing types in our city. We are providing housing for every stage of someone's life. That is stability. We are also providing housing for our kids and grandkids. Like all of you, we are also very concerned about smart growth and ensuring that our community has the necessary services to go along with housing.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Every once in a while you may read in the news about a city whose mayor and council don't get along. I am grateful that has not been the case in American Fork. I appreciate Kevin Barnes and Rob Shelton for their service and welcome our new councilmembers Ernie John and Tim Holley and know they are up to the task to work productively with our existing councilmembers to do what's in the best interest of our residents.

### CONCLUSION

I've covered a lot of different aspects of what is happening in American Fork including quality of life, water, public safety, infrastructure, elections, Fiber, and growth in American Fork. In conclusion, our individual efforts matter, we make an impression on the people around us that lasts a lifetime. And while our city continues to evolve, grow, and transform, it's the people that will keep our community timeless.

*This is an excerpt from the full address that was delivered to the Chamber of Commerce in January 2024.*



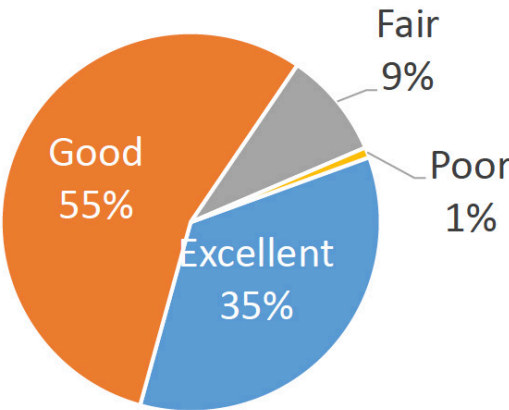
read the full address at:  
[americanfork.gov](http://americanfork.gov)

# COMMUNITY SURVEY 2023 RESULTS

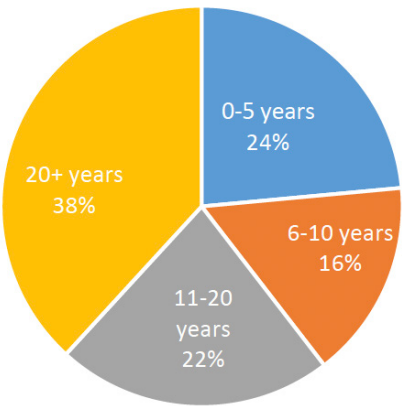
The 2023 American Fork Community Survey was available online during December 2023. Responses were collected anonymously and each response was taken into account for the report.

The City received 1,268 responses, which represents about 4% of the population, or 13% of the households in the City. In each portion of the survey you will see “% Responded.” This is the number of people, out of the 1,268 total responses, that responded to that particular question. Gathering resident opinion is invaluable to us as decisions are made for American Fork. City Council and staff review the survey each year as one source of resident opinion.

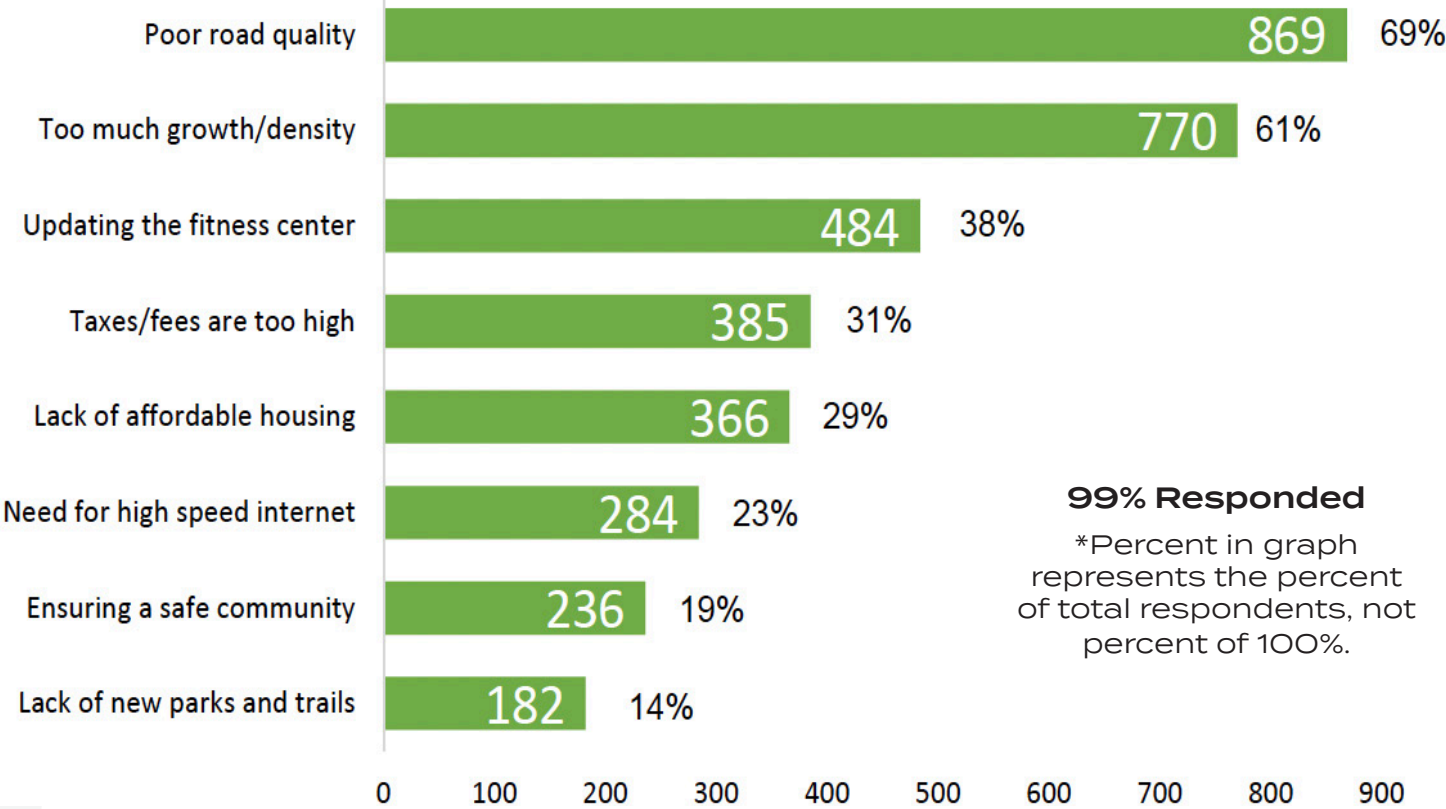
OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



TIME LIVED IN AMERICAN FORK



## TOP ISSUES IN AMERICAN FORK



## HELPFULNESS OF CITY'S COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



READ THE FULL 2023  
COMMUNITY SURVEY  
REPORT AT:  
**[americanfork.gov](https://americanfork.gov)**

## February 2024 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Date & Time	Event & Location	Details
February 7 & 8; 6-9pm	Pirates of Penzance Auditions Timpanogos Arts Foundation	Prepare 16-32 bars of music, video auditions welcome. More info on TAFtix.com.
February 8; 7pm	Valentine Charcuterie Class Library Community Room	This class will go over the basics of food selection and arrangement. Demonstration only.
February 12; 7pm	Library Children's Activity Room Great Backyard Bird Count Family Night	Come to the library to learn about Utah's most common backyard birds. All ages welcome.
February 14;	Wasatch Show Band Valentine's Day Dance	Tickets available at wasatchshowband.com Dancing and Dessert Bar, Dinner optional.
February 14; 4:30pm	Teen Art After School Library Teen Zone	Join us in making mosaic art this month. All supplies provided. For ages 12-18.
February 17; 7pm	SOUL: Music that Heals & Inspires Valentine Theater	Timpanogos Singer & Youth Choirs concert. Additional info and Tickets at TAFtix.com.
February 19	President's Day	City offices are closed this day.
February 19; 7pm	Wasatch Winds: Night at the Movies American Fork High School	FREE with suggested donation of \$5 a person or \$15 per immediate family.
February 21; 7pm	Vivace Youth Orchestras Youth Soloists Concert Valentine Theater	More info at TAFtix.com.
February 26; 7pm	Gardening Class Library Community Room	Taught by master gardeners from the AF Beautification committee.



### PRESIDENT'S DAY CLOSURE

City Administration Offices will be closed for President's Day on February 19, 2024 and will resume regular business hours the next day.

The Library is closed on February 19, 2024. The Fitness Center will be operating their normal hours (5 am to 10 pm) on February 19, 2024.

Trash and recycling will be pushed back and will resume one day for everyone. See calendar for specific dates.

## New City Council Sworn-In



American Fork City swore in two new, and one re-elected, city councilmembers on January 3rd, 2024 at 12pm at Historic City Hall. They will serve from January 2024 to December 2027. The city approved the official election results released by the Utah County Elections Division in early December. The top three candidates were incumbent Clark Taylor with 3,400 votes, Tim Holley with 3,160 votes, and Ernie John with 2,772 votes.

Mayor Brad Frost expressed his welcome to the new city councilmembers. "As we begin the new year, I share a warm welcome to the incoming city councilmembers. This coming year I expect we will be able to work in unity as a council in our community's best interest. I'm looking forward to all we'll be able to accomplish together."

Clark Taylor, who has been a city councilmember since 2020, shares, "City Government doesn't solve issues—people do. My deep love for American Fork drives my commitment to preserving its unique character while planning for the future. Working together is the only way this can happen."

Ernie John, newly elected as a city councilmember expressed, "I believe my expertise will help to successfully navigate the changes American Fork City faces while staying close to the community feeling and values my family, past and present, have enjoyed."

Tim Holley, also newly elected, shares on why people live in American Fork, "I understand the many opportunities this amazing city has and why we have all chosen to live here: the safety, jobs, neighbors, service, events and people that make this our home."

American Fork City expresses gratitude to Kevin Barnes and Robert Shelton for their service on the City Council over the past years. Kevin Barnes served from January 2016 to December 2023, and Robert Shelton served from January 2012 to December 2023. Both were recognized during the last City Council meeting of the year. In honor of their time, they were both given a brick (spare) from Historic City Hall as a metaphor for how they have helped build American Fork.